

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

COUNTRY	Rumania	REPORT	[REDACTED]	25X1
SUBJECT	Diseases in Rumania	DATE DISTR.	27 February 1953	
DATE OF INFO.	[REDACTED]	NO. OF PAGES	6	
PLACE ACQUIRED	[REDACTED]	REQUIREMENT	[REDACTED]	25X1
		REFERENCES		25X1

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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.  
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(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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Malaria

1. Although no epidemics occurred, this disease was a chronic problem in Rumania. The quartan form of the disease was found along the valley of the Danube River from its delta on the Black Sea to the area at the Yugoslav border. There were many small lakes and swamps along the river and the anopheles mosquito was found on both banks of the river up to 40 km and more from the shore. The Dobrogea [4400N-2800E], Muntenia [4400N-2600E] and Oltenia [4460N-2300E] regions were affected by the disease. [REDACTED] many cases of splenomegaly [REDACTED] were attributable to malaria. 25X1
2. There was some effort to control the disease. Within the Ministry of Health, there was a special section whose responsibility it was to combat conditions producing malaria. This section had its own doctors and dispensaries [REDACTED] 25X1  
[REDACTED] The fight was not well organized, however; [REDACTED] the Antimalaria Section was not administered as well as other Health Ministry sections. No aircraft were used for spraying the mosquito-breeding grounds. [REDACTED] no spraying from aircraft in Rumania, but [REDACTED] 25X1  
this procedure may have been used in the Danube delta area. DDT was available in Rumania. DDT and other insecticides were made at a factory in Fagaras [4551N-2459E] which was engaged primarily in the manufacture of explosives. Only one section of the factory was making DDT. In 1950 the plant was producing "analcid", an anti-fly agent. 25X1

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(Note: Washington Distribution Indicated By "X"; Field Distribution By "#".)

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3. Some construction work on the Danube Canal has indirectly led to the drying up of lakes which were formerly mosquito-infested. In Lunca Prutului, north of Galati /4527N-2803E/, the Government drained certain lakes in order to acquire more ground for agriculture. It propagandized its efforts as an attempt to combat malaria, although this was not the real reason for draining the lakes. Soldiers from the Lunca Prutului area showed post-malarial symptoms.

4. [redacted] the section of the Ministry of Health which was combatting malaria had available to it several institutes around the country. [redacted] a physician who went to Cluj University to attend a course in malaria problems, in order to qualify himself for a post at a so-called Malaria Institute. The university offered only a very general training for such men. [redacted] the number of such institutes must have been very small. [redacted] these institutes served essentially as statistics collection offices.

5. [redacted] that malaria sufferers were rejected before induction into the armed forces. Recent droughts have dried up mosquito-breeding grounds. Rumania received no assistance from the USSR in its fight against the disease.

#### Typhus

6. There was a nationwide epidemic of typhus in December 1945 and January 1946, and again during the same two months the following year. There were many deaths from the disease at that time

[redacted] The disease broke out first in the Moldavia Region /4600N-2700E/. [redacted] it was imported from the USSR. A famine was raging in this region at the time of the first outbreak; food was supplied to the Rumanians at that time by the US. The movement of the people around the country in search of food contributed to the spread of the typhus.

7. No epidemic of typhus has occurred since the first months of 1947. In 1952 Rumania was emphasizing preventive measures to ward off a new outbreak of the disease. [redacted] there was a new section of the Ministry of Health known as the Medic Igiena, which propagandized for public attention to sanitary living. Plans were that there would be a physician from this Section in every institution and enterprise to care for the prophylactic indoctrination of the populace. The use of DDT in crowded places was emphasized. Soap was very scarce in Rumania, and when it was placed on sale, long queues of prospective buyers formed. There was no anti-typhus vaccine available for general use. All typhus vaccine stores were used up during the epidemics; even at that time, there was very little, and no adequate supply is now on hand. [redacted] some of the vaccine in Cluj, at a clinic of the University

This vaccine was probably not made in Rumania.

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8. [redacted] only isolated cases of typhus were being reported. Physicians who reported cases of typhus were punished on the grounds that they should have prevented the disease. This caused them to falsify their reports and to avoid reporting cases of typhus and other infectious diseases. However, no typhus epidemic has occurred since 1947.

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### Tuberculosis

9. Tuberculosis was widespread in Rumania and the disease was becoming increasingly prevalent. A special section of the Ministry of Health was given the responsibility of fighting against the spread of the disease. This section had at its disposal special hospitals, sanatoriums and dispensaries reserved for tuberculosis cases. Each regiune had one tub dispensary, in which usually two specialists were on duty. This dispensary had an x-ray instrument and auxiliary medical personnel. Card files were maintained on all persons with tuberculosis, and these were arranged according to locality, in order to indicate where the disease was especially prevalent. The dispensaries in Cluj were organized by Prof. (fnu) DANIELLO.
10. The people were also visited in their villages by tuberculosis specialists. A commission of doctors investigated conditions in a locality where tuberculosis was present in unusual amount or where it was spreading. Tuberculin, for testing, and BCG vaccine were available at the dispensary located in the capital city of the regiune, (an administrative unit approximately equivalent to a county. There are about 30 regiune in Rumania). BCG vaccine was formerly administered by a village doctor, but because of cases where the vaccine was improperly administered, it can now be administered only in the dispensary of the regiune.
11. [redacted] the system of tuberculosis prophylaxis, viz, vaccination with BCG, etc., followed in Rumania was patterned after the Swedish system. However, it was publicized as the Soviet method.
- BCG
- may also be made in Rumania at the Cantacuzino Institute.
12. Tuberculosis was spread by the conditions which prevail in Rumania, especially bad food, inadequate diet, overwork and ineffective prophylaxis. Bovine tuberculosis is found extensively, and, according to DANIELLO, this is the type of tuberculosis in the country.
13. Streptomycin was almost unavailable. Para-aminosalicylic acid (PAS) was prepared in 1949 in liquid form in the Chemistry Section of the University of Cluj, but as of 1952, it was not being produced in Rumania. These two drugs may at present be obtained from the West in personal mail packages, from which the Government extracts a part as tax. The recipient must prove that he needs the drug received in personal mail or it will be confiscated. Even though the recipient does require the drug, an arbitrary amount is removed by customs agents.
14. [redacted] in Rumania, Communist Party members had preference in the distribution of available drugs and appeared to have their own sources through Communist Party physicians. Treatment for tuberculosis was inadequate. Cases considered operable were sent to the special hospitals or to sanatoriums. The number of sanatorium beds was insufficient to care for all the needy cases. Dr. (fnu) CARPINISANU, a noted Rumanian surgeon, has developed pulmonary surgery to a high degree. Though he was usually

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employed at Bucharest he traveled throughout the country to perform necessary operations. CARPINISANU was attempting to introduce his methods among other surgeons and was making a personal effort to teach younger surgeons to use his methods.

Tuberculosis was particularly widespread in the Maramures region [4750N-2410E] and in the Transylvanian Alps area. The disease was frequently detected among the armed forces personnel and it was my responsibility to see that officers and soldiers who contracted tuberculosis were discharged.

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#### Venereal Diseases

15. There was no way to learn the extent of venereal diseases because health statistics were unreliable. Public statistics were false because of the policy of reporting that the total number of illnesses decreases yearly; otherwise the Regime would appear in a bad light. Public efforts were being made to wipe out VD in Rumania. The organization for its control was similar to the Anti-tuberculosis Division. There were special dispensaries in the capital of each regiune, but no special hospitals or sanatoriums existed for VD cases. There also were sections for venereal disease cases in the general hospital in each regiune.
16. Penicillin was employed to treat gonorrhea in Rumania. The patient was obliged to obtain his own penicillin from the black market. Sulfa drugs manufactured in Rumania were found unsuitable for treating gonorrhea. Sulfa products were imported from Czechoslovakia and were thought to be superior to Rumanian sulfa drugs, which were manufactured by the CIF factory in Bucharest. The factory had a small branch in Cluj, formerly a subsidiary firm of "Igea".
17. Syphilis was treated with penicillin. It was very expensive. During my medical studies, it was employed in a student demonstration to show the disappearance of spirochetes from the blood stream. Arsenic compounds and bismuth therapy were also used.
18. Soldiers who contracted VD were not punished, but were merely treated to ensure their recovery. When syphilis was detected in an individual, treatment was begun, and he was given a booklet explaining the effects of the treatment being employed (e.g. arsenic, bismuth or penicillin). The individual could be forced to follow the course of treatment prescribed; however, treatment might be interrupted by transfer.
19. Venereal diseases were most widespread in Maramures, the Banat [4580N-2100E] and the western mountain areas. A medical certificate, stating that applicants were free from venereal diseases, was required before a marriage license was issued in Rumania.

#### Dysentery

20. Outbreaks of bacillary dysentery occurred sporadically during the summer months. There have been no large epidemics. There were about 100 cases in Visoul de Jos [4744N-2422E], in the Maramures area, in 1949, which [ ] were spread by drinking contaminated water. These cases occurred among railroad construction workers who failed to chlorinate their drinking water. [ ] there was a mild outbreak of bacillary dysentery in 1945 in my own village. Since doctors were subject to punishment if they reported cases of dysentery, [ ] minor outbreaks of the disease were not reported.

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21. Very little CIF sulfaguanidine is now available in Rumania. Physicians were required to lecture the people on methods of preventing dysentery. The following of a special diet and avoidance of certain foods by the people, advocated during these lectures, was impractical in Rumania since the people receive such an inadequate diet that they would eat whatever they could get. [redacted] no amoebic dysentery occurred in Rumania. 25X1

Trachoma

22. This disease was rare. [redacted] 25X1

Typhoid

23. There are regions of Rumania where typhoid was endemic and the disease appeared constantly during the summer. There have been small-scale epidemics of the disease since 1946, and there are always cases of typhoid in the hospitals. An outbreak occurred in 1948 at Odorhei /4619N-2518E/, and several cases were observed that year among soldiers. The cause was traced to a military well which had been contaminated by seepage from a sewer of a near-by hospital, in which there were typhoid patients.
24. An inoculation against typhoid and paratyphoid A & B (TAB) was given every year in the armed forces. The soldiers had to be forced to take their inoculations. Civilians were also obliged to receive this inoculation, but only about 10% complied. Physicians falsified their reports and indicated that all civilians had received their immunizations.

Paratyphoid

25. It is difficult to know the extent of paratyphoid in Rumania. Reports of such intestinal diseases were frequently combined so that it was not possible to know the complete picture. All intestinal diseases were a serious problem. [redacted] it would be necessary to institute an epidemiological study to establish the sources of infection of all intestinal disease outbreaks. 25X1

Avitaminosis

26. [redacted] there were indications of Vitamin D, C, A, B and Niacinamid deficiencies among the population. [redacted] 25X1  
[redacted] scarcity of food brought about by the steady exportation of food to the USSR. Food items were apparently taken off the market for export to the USSR. Milk was scarce but would have been drunk by children if it had been available. However, milk and butter, a large amount of meat, eggs, and grain were shipped to the USSR. There was a sharp contrast between the normal availability of food and the supplies available to the Rumanian consumer at this time. The undernourishment of the people was obvious to the casual observer. Pigs, which were always an export item, were scarce in 1952. Potatoes, fruits, grapes and wines were disappearing from the market. There was a sharp increase in the average consumption of alcohol, e.g., in brandies, by the population. 25X1

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Poliomyelitis

27. There was a poliomyelitis pandemic in 1946 or 1947 in Rumania, but since that time very few cases have occurred.

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there were two iron lungs in Bucharest.

Diphtheria

28. A decade ago this disease was widespread but it is no longer a problem. Sera for its control were available from the Cantacuzino Institute (Institutul de Seruri si Vaccinuri Cantacuzino).

Influenza

29. Serious epidemics of influenza, some of them dangerous, occurred every year in Rumania. There were two fatal cases among civilians in Brasov in the Winter of 1951. Both persons died from intestinal influenza. Many working hours were lost every year because of the disease.

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Recurrent Fever

30. Cases of this disease appeared but it was not widespread. There have been no epidemics. Cases which occurred were sporadic. There were always some cases of recurrent fever in the hospitals.

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the Moldavia

area might have had more cases than other regions.

Scarlet Fever

31. This was a constant problem. There were epidemics of a minor nature every winter. Occasionally the hospitals did not have enough beds to take care of all the scarlet fever patients.

Smallpox

32. This disease did not appear in Rumania. Vaccine could be obtained for inoculation against it from the Cantacuzino Institute.

Tetanus

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33. Inoculation of armed forces personnel against tetanus was regularly carried out. The serum was mixed before inoculation with the typhoid, paratyphoid A & B (TAB) yearly inoculation. A combination of these vaccines was called a Bogomoletz polyvaccine, since it resembled the Soviet polyvaccine of the same name.

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the Bogomoletz polyvaccine

was said to contain many vaccines.

Rabies

34. This disease existed but was not widespread. A few cases occurred several years ago among dogs and wolves.

Anthrax

35. This disease was rare, but cases were always available in the clinics for demonstration to medical students.

Cholera and Plague

36. no cases of these diseases in Rumania.

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